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INFO RUEHKK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 000059

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE AND NEA/IPA, PRM FOR PRM/ANE; NSC FOR
PASCUAL/PRATT; PLEASE PASS TO USAID FOR KUNDER/MCCLLOUD/BORODIN

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TAGS: [ECON](#) [EAID](#) [PHUM](#) [KWBG](#) [ETRD](#) [IS](#)
SUBJECT: GAZA HUMANITARIAN UPDATE -- JANUARY 1

11. (SBU) Summary: OCHA estimated that 80 truckloads of supplies would enter Gaza via Kerem Shalom on January 1, including three truckloads of medical supplies. Karni and Nahal Oz were closed by the GOI for the sixth consecutive day, and will remain closed for security issues, according to UNRWA. UNRWA resumed food distributions throughout Gaza on January 1.

Crossings

12. (SBU) OCHA contacts estimated that 80 truckloads of supplies would enter Gaza through Kerem Shalom on January 1. (Note: COGAT reported to Embassy Tel Aviv that Kerem Shalom closed early, which may lower the final count. End Note.) A total of 84 truckloads entered Kerem Shalom on December 31. Four tons of medical supplies and 10 ambulances from Libya entered through Rafah crossing on December 31, and Rafah was open for evacuees and for the entry of medical supplies on January 1. Karni and Nahal Oz crossings remained closed for the sixth straight day, and UNRWA contacts report that the GOI confirmed it will not open Karni or Nahal Oz because of security issues. UNRWA will coordinate with COGAT to use the small conveyor belt at Kerem Shalom to transfer grain, but warns 25 percent is likely to be lost in spillage.

UNRWA Restarts Food Distribution

13. (SBU) On January 1, UNRWA resumed food distributions (suspended since December 18) for 20,000 people at ten locations throughout Gaza. UNRWA has sufficient stocks of flour donations from neighboring countries and the WFP to continue distributions for the next ten days, but there is still a backlog of items to be distributed. WFP distributed bread in Beit Hanoun on December 31, but has not resumed wider distributions.

Fuel and Water Supplies

14. (SBU) WHO contacts say food and fuel are the most pressing needs for Gazans. With Nahal Oz closed for fuel transfers, UNRWA contacts are discussing with COGAT the possibility of transporting 200,000 liters of industrial diesel using a back-to-back system through Kerem Shalom. UNRWA is in contact with Gaza power plant officials to determine what quantity of diesel is needed on a daily basis. OCHA contacts report that airstrikes have damaged power lines, causing 24 hour/day power cuts in some areas. GEDCO (Gaza's main power distributor) is reportedly facing difficulty repairing power equipment because of security and lack of spare parts.

15. (SBU) OCHA contacts report that sewage water is pouring into the streets in Beit Hanoun following damage to the main pipeline between Beit Hanoun and the Beit Lahiya wastewater treatment plant on December 31. Gaza's sewage and water utility company (CMSWU) reported January 1 that all of Gaza City has been without running water for the past two days, because of lack of fuel for pumps and spare parts. UNRWA will give the utility company 30,000 liters of diesel on January 2, which will allow the water pumps to operate again. CMSWU also reported that current supplies of chlorine will last only three more days.

